

September 16, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Notice

In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Monday, September 15, 2003, Marie Guillory and Scott Reiter from NTCA met with FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein and with Scott Bergmann, Legal Counsel to the Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau assisting Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein.

Public interest tests for the designation of an additional eligible telecommunications carrier in a rural ILEC service area were discussed. In addition a paper by Dale Lehman, *Universal Service and the Myth of the Level Playing Field*, was presented. Copies of handouts provided at the meeting are attached.

In accordance with the Commission's rules, an original and two copies of this letter are being filed with the Secretary's Office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Scott Reiter at 703-351-2015.

Sincerely,

/s/ Scott Reiter
Sr. Telecommunications Specialist
Legal and Industry

cc: Cmr. Jonathan Adelstein
Scott Bergmann
Attachments